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Mission to Mars

Part 1 of our feature on the expedition to the Red Planet explores how we'll get there

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Redesign 'breaks' its way through

Nova Centre plans OK'd despite opposition

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City overrun with Spideys!

Store owner brings Spider-Man (in)to Halifax

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And for fans of his gal pal...

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Sterling/Silver

NBA commissioner bans L.A. Clippers owner for life. Use Metro's AR to hear the controversial chat behind it all

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Champs are done

Mooseheads drop Game 7 to Foreurs, ending quest for back-to-back QMJHL titles

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JEFF HARPER/METRO



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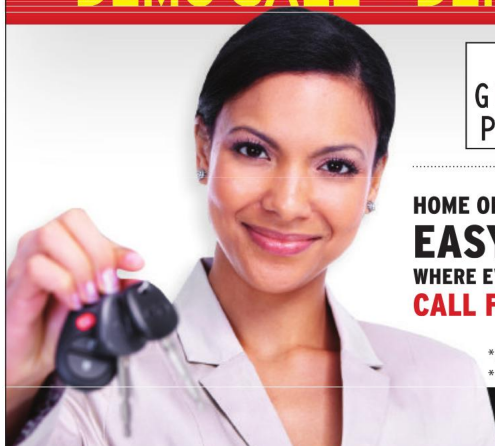
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Woman stabbed to death

Judge prolongs man's parole eligibility at trial

A Dartmouth man who pleaded guilty to the stabbing death of girlfriend Tara Lynn Park faces at least 21 years in prison before he is eligible for parole.



Chris Hutchinson
METRO FILE

On Tuesday, a judge ruled Christopher Kenneth Hutchinson must serve 21 years before he can apply for parole.

Hutchinson had pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in Park's death in February.

Chris Hansen, spokeswoman for the Public Prosecution Service, said Hutchinson is not allowed to own a firearm for 99 years, must make restitution in the amount of \$2,878.37, and provide a DNA sample.

Park was found in a stairwell of a Dartmouth apartment on June 1 after police responded to reports of a commotion in the building.

An autopsy determined she was stabbed to death, and police say Hutchinson became a person of interest early on. He was arrested and charged two days later.

The guilty plea carries an automatic life in prison sentence.

On Tuesday, the judge decided to prolong Hutchinson's parole ineligibility longer than either side had requested, since the Crown was looking for 15 to 17 years and the defence had asked for 12 to 15 years.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Construction workers at the Nova Centre site on Tuesday. PATRICK MCKENNA/FOR METRO

Council greenlights Nova Centre redesign

City matters. Proposed changes increase the width of towers and move convention centre above ground

Consensus

"The overwhelming consensus of those who participated in the consultation was the desire for the entire Nova Centre to be iconic and architecturally contemporary."

Argyle Developments Inc. CEO Joe Ramia



RUTH
DAVENPORT
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Halifax regional councillors have approved several changes to the design of the new downtown convention centre, despite strident opposition from many people who came to a public meeting.

More than 30 Halifax residents came to city hall Tuesday evening to weigh in on the changes of the Nova Centre, which affect the width and shape of the towers on the mixed-use development

and the relocation of the convention centre from under to above ground.

Most speakers panned the new design as out of character for the 18th-century downtown street grid and out of step with planning regulations.

"It would break the block pattern, rupture the height limit, block views, tower over the Citadel," said Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia president Phil Pacey. "Instead of changing the development to comply with the law, HRM is being asked to change the law

to match the development."

Several speakers came to the defence of the design — and Argyle Developments Inc. CEO Joe Ramia himself.

"Mr. Ramia and his group ... went out to public consultation, and I believe they've made tremendous improvements to the design of the centre," said Danny Chedrawe. "For him to open this whole thing up to another public process is bringing tremendous risk to him and his company, and we should acknowledge that."

The most contentious

change involves handing over a portion of Grafton Street as part of the development. The revised plans suggest the street will be used for public programming and events, but will be owned by the developer.

"There's something about that that does not feel, on a gut level, to be completely justifiable," said Hudson Shotwell. "Why do you think it's so necessary to privatize one of the streets of beautiful downtown Halifax?"

City staff will report back to council with options for terms and conditions to ensure the street remains open to the public while under private ownership.

The changes were approved by a vote of 14-1, with Coun. Jennifer Watts the only vote against.

1 NEWS

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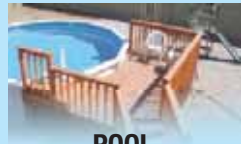


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Council approves new Halifax logo, despite some opposition

14-2 vote. Proponents say they'll never win over everyone, but add the logo is catching on



ALY THOMSON
halifax@metronews.ca

Out with the old and in with the new — and blue.

A new municipal logo that has polarized councillors and community members alike since it was unveiled two weeks was approved by regional council Tuesday.

Council voted 14-2 in favour of the design by the Bedford-based Revolve Inc. Councillors David Hendsbee and Gloria McCluskey voted against it.

The logo reads "Halifax" in all capital letters in shades of



Halifax's new brand logo is creating plenty of discussion. CONTRIBUTED

blue. It uses a sans-serif font and omits the bar across the middle of both As.

In a presentation to coun-

cil, Resolve CEO Phil Otto said the logo is "bold in its simplicity" and would adapt well to suit various municipal enti-

ties.

He recognized public response to the logo has been polarized but added most

people are inherently resistant to change.

Coun. Linda Mosher said she thought the logo was fresh, clean and simple.

"This is a great visual identity," said Mosher. "What you have to look at is the overall branding. Collectively we're a great municipality.... It's a unified logo."

But McCluskey said the public response she's heard has been resoundingly negative.

"I'm fairly well-known around here," she said. "Not one person has said to me that they like anything about this."

"They don't like the logo, they don't like it being changed."

Coun. Darren Fisher noted no single logo would please everyone.

"You'll never get consensus," said Fisher. "This is catching on, faster than I thought

Consensus

"We're not going to please everyone — we never will — but I think we came close."

Coun. Matt Whitman

when I first saw it.

"I think this is the right thing to do."

Staff said phasing in the logo — including changing stationary, business cards and some signs — would cost around \$500,000.

That funding does not include money already set aside for about 60 community signs that were in disrepair and will be updated with the new logo.

The logo is part of the municipality's new branding strategy approved two weeks ago by council. It includes the slogan: "Halifax. Be Bold."

Heritage could be lost in development: Trust

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia says a unique piece of Halifax would be lost if the 22nd Commerce Square development in downtown Halifax goes ahead as planned.

The trust was at regional council on Tuesday supporting an appeal launched by four property owners concerned about the development on the city block surrounded by Duke, Granville, George and Hollis streets.

But after the four-hour quasi-judicial hearing, council upheld the development's approval by the city's Design Review Committee.

The project still needs approval by regional council.



Coun. Bill Karsten METRO FILE

Phillip Pacey of the trust says the truncated pitched roof of the Flinn Building, one of five heritage buildings on the block, is architecturally unique to Halifax and would be lost in the current Lydon Lynch design.

"We've searched trying to find other truncated build-

ings," said Pacey after the meeting. "Halifax seems to be just about the only place in the world. It is a really precious thing."

The other structures are the Bank of Commerce and the Hayes Insurance, Merchants Bank of Canada and Champlain buildings.

Most councillors agreed the Design Review Committee met its obligation to use heritage guidelines and that their decision should be respected.

"The material they needed to make a comprehensive and valued decision was there," said Coun. Bill Karsten.

ALY THOMSON/FOR METRO

'Critical resource'

Council strikes pro arts committee

A new Halifax council committee will focus on the region's professional arts.

Halifax regional council has approved forming a professional arts and culture sector advisory committee in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

It is also moving forward with \$300,000 for a professional arts grants program as part of the 2014-15 budget.

Coun. Jennifer Watts said many cities across the country have similar committees that deal with professional arts and culture.

"(Artists) provided a critical resource in our society," Watts told council.

"I think cultivating and

supporting our professional artist community is a pillar to moving forward on a progressive cultural centre."

But Coun. Barry Dalrymple was concerned council already has too many committees.

He said the arts grant would be better distributed through council's existing grants committee.

ALY THOMSON/FOR METRO

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The murder of Inuit student Loretta Saunders has upset people both locally and across the country. FACEBOOK

Roundtable on Saunders 'legacy'

Loretta Saunders, 26. Dalhousie University, Native Women's Association hosting discussion today

More than two months after Loretta Saunders was murdered, community members are moving past the traumatic event and saying work has to be done.

"For the first month, six weeks, everybody was sort of in a state of shock," said Cheryl Maloney on Tuesday, president of the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association.

"I think we're just starting to shake off that shock."

In conjunction with Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law, the associa-

tion is hosting a roundtable in Halifax on Wednesday to establish a meaningful legacy for Saunders that focuses on research and activities designed to advance the opportunities of indigenous women.

"It's the first step since Loretta was found murdered that we're actually getting to work," Maloney said.

The meeting includes academics, unions, organizations and governments interested in developing creative ways to empower indigenous women.

Saunders, an Inuit woman from Labrador, was a student at Saint Mary's University in Halifax and focused her studies on missing and murdered aboriginal women.

She disappeared from Halifax on Feb. 13.

Police allege the 26-year-old woman was killed the day

she was last seen at an apartment she once shared with Blake Leggette and his girlfriend Victoria Henneberry.

Leggette, 26, and Henneberry, 28, were charged with first-degree murder on Feb. 27 after Saunders' body was found in a wooded area off the Trans-Canada Highway in New Brunswick.

Maloney said that although she has yet to see the action the federal government promised when they passed a motion calling for an inquiry, she knows Canadians want to be part of the solution.

"That's what I think got us through that time. Despite the federal government's inaction, Canadians were concerned and organizations, groups, and governments, some governments, want to be part of a solution," she said. **CHRISTINE BENNETT/FOR METRO**

Yarmouth. Métis man loses court battle to hunt outside of hunting seasons

A case that has been before the court for 10 years has ended in a conviction and a \$100 fine for a Métis man in Yarmouth provincial court.

But for the sides involved, this case was never about the ultimate penalty attached to the charge, which is why the defence was already talking Monday about an appeal before leaving the courthouse.

In October 2003, Jack Hatfield, of Cape Sable Island, shot a buck north of French Lake. He claimed then, and

continues to believe now, his Métis heritage allows him to hunt outside of provincially set hunting seasons.

But in a written decision handed down Monday, Judge Robert Prince determined Hatfield cannot claim his aboriginal right is constitutionally protected. For this to be the case, Hatfield needed to tie his ancestry to a community that existed before effective European control, the court determined.

YARMOUTH VANGUARD

Scabies outbreak limited

Capital Health said on Tuesday the scabies outbreak in the Halifax Infirmary seems to be limited to the cardiovascular intensive care unit, and any infected staff are being treated in an on-site clinic.

Last week, Capital Health confirmed one patient was diagnosed with the highly

contagious skin rash. Two staff had been diagnosed by Tuesday afternoon.

Capital Health spokesman Everton McLean said about 36 staff members have come forward to report scabies symptoms since last Thursday, with many calling in sick.

"We're watching that, but

we don't see any spread to other units at this point," he said.

McLean said the staff shortage resulted in six surgeries being postponed Friday, and one on Tuesday.

All 75 staff in the unit have been given a lotion to treat the rash, said McLean.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

Gosse to scale back duties

Nova Scotia NDP MLA Gordie Gosse says he will be reducing his duties as he undergoes treatment for cancer.

Gosse announced Tuesday that he was diagnosed with cancer late last week.

"Like hundreds of other Nova Scotians, I am nervous and scared about the fight I am about to embark on," Gosse said in a statement. "But it's a fight I am determined to win."

The member for Sydney-Whitney Pier said he will be required to undergo chemotherapy and radiation treatments and as a result, he will be curtailing his work as a member.

"Spending time away from



Gordie Gosse METRO FILE

my constituents and my colleagues in the house of assembly will not be easy for me," he said.

He said it's his goal to return to the legislature in the fall and

in the meantime, constituents will be able to rely on his staff.

Gosse was first elected in 2003 and served as Speaker from 2011 to 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS


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Dartmouth

Angela Patricia Hall 2011 murder still unsolved

Three years after Angela Patricia Hall's murder, police are still asking the public for any information that could help solve her case.

On April 29, 2011, police relieved a call at 8:20 a.m. about an injured person in a building on Primrose Street in Dartmouth. Hall was found when they arrived, and rushed to hospital where she soon died.

Anyone with information is asked to call police or Crime Stoppers. **METRO**

Spider-Man takes a swing through downtown Halifax

Look out! Halifax Town Clock shows up on special Spider-Man cover



HALEY RYAN

haley.ryan@metronews.ca

In the chill of night, at the scene of the crime, like a streak of light, he arrives just in time — that's 7:20, according to the Halifax Town Clock.

Bolts of electricity then light up the sky, and Spider-Man falls toward Brunswick Street.

This scene comes to life as Marvel Comics's friendliest neighbourhood superhero swings into town Wednesday on covers of The Amazing Spider-Man issue No. 1, where Peter Parker returns after more than two years of mind-control by Dr. Otto "Octopus" Octavius who went by Superior Spider-Man.

Strange Adventures owner Calum Johnston said

he wanted an exclusive cover of the issue as soon as Marvel announced the return of Parker, and teamed up with Moncton artist Nick Bradshaw to bring something uniquely Halifax to the design.

"Taste is in everyone's own eye, but I think ours is pretty spiffy," Johnston said Tuesday as he waited for the delivery truck to drop off hundreds of Haligonian Spideys.

Johnston said he wanted Bradshaw to create the cover because he's a "terrific artist" and knows him well, although Bradshaw draws X-Men and Wolverine comics and had never handled Spider-Man.

"We thought the clock-tower was obvious, sort of the iconic image," Johnston said.

Johnston has ordered special covers before, including one of Godzilla crushing the comic-book store, and said a unique cover grabs attention.

"A lot of folks will drop in just to purely buy this issue," Johnston said. "Hopefully also they read the comic and

go 'This is kind of fun,' and then they want to get the next one and the next."

With the new Amazing Spider-Man 2 movie out this weekend, and Free Comic Book Day on Saturday, Johnston said now is the perfect time for Spidey to catch new fans — just like flies.

The \$5.99 "giant-sized issue" is available in both covers for now, but Johnston said he's hoping some of the variant issues stick around until summer tourists come into town because they always ask "What do you have that we can't get anywhere else?" he said.

But Johnston won't be stashing any special issues away to gather cobwebs.

"I'd be happy if we had them through the summer, but I'll be just as happy if we sell out in a couple weeks," he laughed.

The Time Lord cometh

Strange Adventures will also feature a variant cover of Dr. Who later this summer.



Dave Howlett of Strange Adventures holds the new variant cover for the new Amazing Spider-Man No.1 which features the Halifax Town Clock. PATRICK MCKENNA/FOR METRO

Cape Breton

Trailer park faces eviction

The 45 residents of a Cape Breton trailer park are being evicted because the owner of the property says he's losing money on the business. John Webb, president of Troy Nova Scotia, says rent levels at Troy Trailer Court in Inverness County are so low he can't cover his expenses. Webb says renting a spot in the park costs about \$150 a month. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Antigonish

RCMP seek man wanted in armed robbery

Antigonish County RCMP are looking for a suspect involved in an armed robbery that occurred early Tuesday morning.

Around 1:35 a.m., RCMP responded to a robbery report at the Paq'tnekek Entertainment Centre on the Paq'tnekek First Nations.

The suspect entered the entertainment centre with a firearm and demanded money from the employees.

He then fled the scene with an undetermined amount of cash.

The suspect is believed to be a male wearing a disguise and is described as being between five-foot-three and five-foot-seven, possibly with a stocky build.

METRO

Province names Michael Pickup as auditor general

Michael Pickup, who has worked in the federal auditor general's office for more than 20 years, has been named the province's new auditor general.

Pickup's appointment takes effect July 2 and lasts 10 years.

He takes over for Jacques Lapointe, who retired at the end of January.

Pickup has served as the audit principal for the federal Office of the Auditor General for the last 24 years, leading financial and performance audits.

He was chosen by a panel that included former provincial auditor general Roy Salmon and the dean of the Sobeys School of Business at Saint

Background

Born and raised in Cape Breton, Michael Pickup is a graduate of economics at Acadia University.

Mary's University.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian music

Gordon Lightfoot to play in Halifax

Famed Canadian singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot is playing at the Halifax Metro Centre on Wednesday night.

His cross-Canadian tour kicked off Friday in St. John's and will be running until mid-May, before resuming out west in late October.

The 75-year-old has been inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame and the U.S. Songwriters Hall of Fame.

The Halifax show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are still on sale and cost between \$40 and \$155, including taxes and service fees. **METRO**



Gordon Lightfoot GETTY IMAGES

Entry fee exemption given to owners of land expropriated for Nova Scotia park

Parks Canada says it is providing an entry fee exemption to 130 property owners whose land was expropriated in the creation of Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site in Nova Scotia.

The exemption also applies to their children and

grandchildren.

Parks Canada says the pass will authorize access to areas in the park of personal importance to the families, such as the former site of a family property.

The former property owners or their descendants have to apply to acquire a

pass.

The Canada National Parks Act now prohibits the use of expropriation to establish or expand national parks.

Instead, Parks Canada buys parcels of land as they become available on the market.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Curtain's rising on new Neptune play

Melody Johnson, left, and Mary Fay Coady act out a scene from Johnson's new play *Miss Caledonia* at Neptune's Scotiabank Theatre on Tuesday. The play, which opens on Thursday night, runs until May 11.

PATRICK MCKENNA/FOR METRO

'All she wants to do is find her way back home'

Behind the scenes.

Nova Scotia-filmed *Book of Negroes* tells little-known tale of an enslaved woman

Filmmaker Clement Virgo wasn't sure what to make of *The Book of Negroes* when he first came across Lawrence Hill's 2007 bestseller.

Virgo, the African-Canadian director of *Poor Boy's Game*, was thrown by the novel's title, which is derived from a historical document containing the names of black Loyalists.

"I was a little bit reluctant to read the novel at first because of the title, because I didn't know what *Book of Negroes* meant," he says.

"When I finally did read it, I fell in love with it. It took me about three days to finish it and once I did, I called Lawrence."

It wasn't long before Virgo was meeting with the award-winning Canadian author to



pitch filming his epic story of Aminata Diallo, an African woman kidnapped by slave traders in West Africa.

"Here is a woman who was taken from her home and sort of pulled through a maelstrom, not unlike, say, Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, and all she wants to do is find her way back home," says Virgo, taking a brief break during filming *The Book of Negroes* near Halifax.

Virgo and Hill co-wrote the script for the six-part miniseries starring Aunjanue Ellis (*The Help*) as Diallo, and Academy

Award winners Louis Gossett Jr. and Cuba Gooding Jr. The Canada-South Africa co-production will air next year on CBC in Canada and BET in the United States.

The cast also includes Allan Hawco, Lyriq Bent and Ben Chaplin. Principal photography began earlier this year in South Africa before moving to several locations in Nova Scotia.

For Hill, it's a chance to tell his tale in a new medium — an opportunity he says is "quite exciting."

"It has come to life, it's really quite stunning," says Hill, who's made several visits to set. "It always takes my breath away a little bit and surprises me to hear an actor express the words that I've had kicking around in my head for years."

Hill's novel follows Diallo as she is enslaved in South Carolina and navigates her way through the American Revolution in New York, the isolated refuge of Nova Scotia and the jungles of Sierra Leone in a bid to secure her freedom.

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Woman pleads for husband's release

Held in Egypt. Health of former Morsi aide failing after 300 days

A Canadian woman is pleading for federal help to convince Egypt to release her husband from captivity in a Cairo jail.

Sarah Attia says the health of her husband, Khaled Al-Qazzaz, is deteriorating.

Attia says she's growing more worried about his fate after word this week that more than 680 people with ties to ousted president Mohammed Morsi were added to a list of those facing death sentences.

Al-Qazzaz is a former aide to Morsi and a permanent resident of Canada.

He was arrested along with Morsi and eight other presidential aides early in



Sarah Attia, wife of Khaled Al-Qazzaz
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

July of last year when the Egyptian military removed Morsi from office.

While Al-Qazzaz has yet to be charged with any offence, Monday marked 300 days since his arrest.

Attia, who was born in Canada, was scheduled to meet Tuesday with Mississauga, Ont., MP Stella Ambler.

Attia and Al-Qazzaz have four children ranging in age from one-and-a-half to eight years old. The two met while studying at the University of Toronto and moved to Egypt in 2005 to launch an educational project.

Al-Qazzaz campaigned for Morsi following the 2011 Egyptian uprising and was later appointed the former president's secretary on foreign relations.

"There is an increased concern that, any moment now, Khaled may witness trumped-up charges and, like others, face a death sentence as well," Attia told an Ottawa news conference.

She said she's aware that Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird recently raised Al-Qazzaz's case with the new Egyptian regime, but has no details of the discussions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Price tag for jets could soar to new heights

An F-35 is seen during the Joint Services Open House and Air Show in 2008 at Andrews Air Force Base in the U.S. state of Maryland. A new report by two think-tanks says the operating costs of Canada's proposed new stealth fighter could be considerably higher than what the Harper government is acknowledging — or perhaps even expecting. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

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Ferry disaster. Search continues for bodies aboard sunken vessel

South Korea's president apologized Tuesday for the government's inept initial response to a deadly ferry sinking as divers fought strong currents in their search for nearly 100 passengers still missing nearly two weeks after the accident.

The government also raised the death toll for what has become a point of national mourning and shame to 204.

Divers are largely using their hands to feel for remaining bodies as they make their way through a maze of dark cabins, stairwells, storage

rooms, lounges and restaurants in the submerged ferry, which flipped upside down as it sank April 16.

President Park Geun-hye's apology, and the earlier resignation of her prime minister, comes amid rising indignation over claims by the victims' relatives that the government did not do enough to rescue or protect their loved ones.

Of the 475 people believed to have been aboard at the time of the sinking, only 174 people survived, including 22 of the 29 crew members.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



South Korean President Park Geun-hye pays tribute to victims of the sunken ferry Sewol in Ansan, South Korea, Tuesday. YONHAP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court of Appeal

Khadr's status goes before court

Former Guantanamo Bay detainee Omar Khadr turns to Alberta's top court Wednesday in hopes of having his eight-year prison term recognized as a youth rather than an adult sentence.

At issue before Alberta's Court of Appeal is whether Correctional Service of Canada has correctly interpreted the sentence handed down by an American military commission in 2010 after Khadr pleaded guilty to five war crimes he committed as a 15-year-old.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charitable status revoked

New terror group

A Canadian organization, the International Relief Fund for the Afflicted and Needy, that provided humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza has been formally branded a terrorist group before the start of a court battle over the revocation of its charitable status.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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0%[†]

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*On select models. *Dealer is reimbursed for holdback included in invoice price.



GLS model shown*
Selling Price: \$19,140

2014
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DEALER INVOICE
PRICE: **\$14,220[†]**

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BI-WEEKLY
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OR

WITH
0%[†]
FINANCING FOR
96 MONTHS

AND
\$0
DOWN

OR LEASE FOR \$69 BI-WEEKLY AT 0%[†] FOR 60 MONTHS
WITH \$0 DOWN

ACCENT L 4-DOOR MANUAL. DEALER INVOICE PRICE INCLUDES \$779
IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS*, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION.

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.5L/100 KM*



Limited model shown*
Selling Price: \$23,754

2014
ELANTRA L

DEALER INVOICE
PRICE: **\$16,352[†]**

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BI-WEEKLY
PAYMENT

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0%[†]
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IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS*, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION.

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.6L/100 KM*



Limited model shown*
Selling Price: \$38,225

2014
SANTA FE SPORT

DEALER INVOICE
PRICE: **\$27,053[†]**

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\$135
BI-WEEKLY
PAYMENT

OR

WITH
0.9%[†]
FINANCING FOR
96 MONTHS

AND
\$0
DOWN

SANTA FE SPORT 2.4L FWD. DEALER INVOICE PRICE INCLUDES \$1,306
IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS*, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION.

HWY: 7.3L/100 KM
CITY: 10.2L/100 KM*



GLS model shown*
Selling Price: \$27,000

2014
TUCSON GL

DEALER INVOICE
PRICE: **\$22,797[†]**

OWN IT FOR
\$118
BI-WEEKLY
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1.9%[†]
FINANCING FOR
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\$0
DOWN

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HWY: 7.2L/100 KM
CITY: 10.0L/100 KM*

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Italian court. Judge says Knox delivered 'mortal blow' in 2007 murder

The Italian appeals court that reinstated the conviction against Amanda Knox in her British roommate's 2007 murder said in a lengthy reasoning made public Tuesday that Knox herself delivered the fatal blow out of a desire to "overpower and humiliate" the victim.

Presiding Judge Alessandro Nencini concluded in a 337-page document that the evidence "inevitably leads to the upholding of the criminal responsibility" against Knox and her former Italian boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito for the murder of 21-year-old Meredith Kercher in a hillside villa occupied by students in the university town of Perugia.

The judge said the nature of Kercher's wounds, which he said were inflicted by two knives, and the absence of defensive wounds indicated multiple aggressors were to blame, also including Rudy Hermann Guede, an Ivorian man convicted separately and serving a 16-year sentence.

Nencini presided over the Florence-based panel that reinstated the first trial guilty verdicts against Knox and Sollecito in January, handing Knox a 28 1/2 year sentence

including the additional conviction on a slander charge for wrongly accusing a Congolese bar owner. Sollecito faces 25 years.

The release of the court's reasoning opens the verdict to an appeal back to the supreme Court of Cassation.

The University of Washington student has been in the United States since 2011, when her earlier conviction was overturned. Knox, 26, has vowed to fight the reinstated conviction, saying she would "never go willingly" to Italy to face her judicial fate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The decision

Nencini's reasoning assigned the role of each assailant:

- Sollecito, now 30, used a small knife that caused a wound on Kercher's neck and also was used to remove her bra, the judge wrote, while Guede restrained and sexually assaulted the victim. Knox "delivered the only mortal blow," with a kitchen knife, the judge wrote.



Amanda Knox THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Tornadoes ravage the Deep South



Dan Wassman gets a hug from a friend, Amy Lundsford, at the home of his son, also named Dan, who was killed when a tornado destroyed the house late Sunday afternoon in Vilonia, Ark. Tornadoes ripped through the region earlier this week, leaving many dead. MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

Southern U.S. The storm system is the latest onslaught of severe weather after a tornado devastated Little Rock, Ark., Sunday

A dangerous storm system that spawned a chain of deadly tornadoes over three days flattened homes and businesses, forced frightened residents in more than half a dozen states

to take cover and left tens of thousands in the dark Tuesday.

As the storm hopped across a large swath of the U.S., the overall death toll was more than 30, killed Monday and Sunday in a band stretching from Oklahoma to Alabama.

Some awoke Tuesday to find their loved ones missing and their homes pulverized. In Louisville, firefighters picked through the remains of mobile homes, and 20 of them linked hands to wade through debris. Rescue workers stepped

over downed power lines and broken trees.

With water and roof damage, the small local hospital's emergency room was evacuated Monday.

"We thought we were going to be OK, then a guy came in and said, 'It's here right now,'" said Dr. Michael Henry, head of the ER. "Then boom! It blew through."

Just east of the hospital, a woman died at the daycare centre she'd run for seven years, according to the county coroner. One seriously injured

child was evacuated from the centre, said state Rep. Michael Evans, who is acting as a liaison for the county.

"You see this in movies," said Abby Tucker, 27. "You don't see it in your own backyard."

The storm system is the latest onslaught of severe weather a day after a tornado carved an 80-mile path of destruction through Little Rock, Ark., killing at least 15. Severe storms also killed one person each in Oklahoma and Iowa on Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOP SIX @ 6
Weeknights at 6 KB counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

Amanda Knox, TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

- 6 Headlights
- 5 Avicii Hey Brother
- 4 Pitbull ft GRL Wild Wild Love
- 3 Demi Lovato Neon Lights
- 2 Jason Derulo ft 2 Chains Talk Dirty
- 1 John Legend All Of Me

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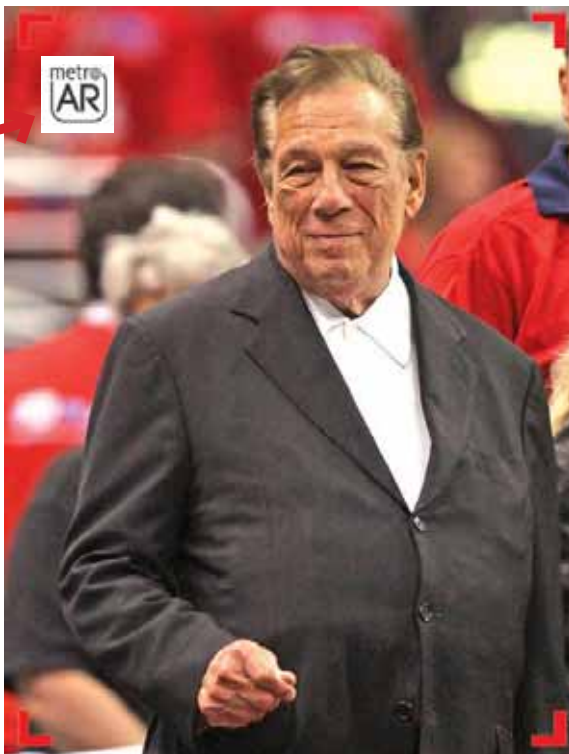


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Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, seen here on the sidelines of a 2012 NBA playoffs game, won't get to watch his team in the current playoffs after the NBA banned him for life in response to racist comments the league says he made in a recorded conversation. STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

NBA clips Sterling's wings with lifetime ban

Racist comments.

League commissioner says Clippers' owner acknowledged he was the man on the tape

Issuing about the strongest rebuke that he could, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver banned Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling for life Tuesday for making racist comments in a recorded conversation, the first step toward forcing a sale of the club and permanently removing Sterling from the league.

Silver also fined Sterling \$2.5 million US.

Sterling, the league's longest-tenured owner and someone with an estimated net worth of about \$2 billion US, did not offer any immediate comment.

Silver said a league inves-

Reaction



"This league is far bigger than any one owner, any one coach and any one player."

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, speaking at a press conference Tuesday in New York City to discuss Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling.

tigation found that Sterling was in fact the person on the audiotapes that were released over the weekend.

Sterling still owns the team, but going forward he is immediately barred from attending any NBA games or practices, being present at any Clippers office or facility, participating in any business or player personnel decisions involving the team.

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A BRAVE NEW EARTH

Why go to Mars?
Futurists say the better question is: Why not?



**ROBSON
FLETCHER**
Metro in Calgary

Peering into the coming decades, Glen Hiemstra has little doubt that humans will one day walk on Mars.

"It's a question of inevitability more than a question of feasibility," the Seattle-based author, consultant and founder of Futurist.com told Metro. "We will eventually go there."

While Hiemstra described the goal of the Mars One project to land settlers on the Red Planet in 2025 as "very ambitious," he also believes the timeline isn't all that far off.

"In my opinion, optimistically, it's the 2030s, not the 2020s," he said. "Realistically, it's probably the 2040s, 2050s before we've really assembled everything that we need."

Len Rosen, the Toronto-based author of 21st Century Tech Blog, foresees a similar timeframe for humanity's first footprints on Martian soil.

"The most optimistic people think in the 2030s — somewhere in that decade," said the 65-year-old Rosen. "I'm hoping I'll be alive to see it."

Questions of how aside, both Rosen and Hiemstra had similar answers when asked

the bigger question: Why should we go to Mars?

Neither thought it likely that, in the immediate future at least, humans would need another planet to escape some calamity on Earth. Rather, they said, it's more a matter of satisfying our natural desire to explore.

"Curiosity is a huge part of our human nature," Rosen said. "Why do you climb a mountain to the top? You're not doing it because you feel you need to find something at the top of the mountain, other than the satisfaction."

Hiemstra said there is a certain "lifeboat aspect to settling somewhere else," adding that humanity will need another planet at some point in the distant, distant future, but for now that's not the main driver to send people to Mars.

"I think it's really driven more by the exploratory impulse," he said.

That impulse has been behind many past human achievements, Rosen noted.

"What drove us to learn how to build aircraft?" he said. "At the time I don't think anybody thought we needed to do it, but we did it. And now, what would be our world without air transport?"

WELCOME THE RED PLANET

A human expedition to Mars is proposed within the next 15 years. Over the next three days, Metro will take you on a pre-flight trip to show you how we'll get there, who might be first to go, and what it might be like when they arrive in this new frontier.

Spacecraft propulsion of the past, present and future ...

Faster and faster. The roughly seven-month trip to Mars is seen as one of the major challenges in sending people to the Red Planet.

Such a long journey will take a toll on astronauts, both in terms of exposure to high levels of space radiation and the long-term effects of microgravity on the human body. But scientists are researching all sorts of different ways to speed up spacecraft and cut down on the travel time. Here are some of the propulsion methods being considered:

Liquid-fuelled rockets

This is the type of propulsion that has been sending rockets off of the Earth's surface since the 1950s. It remains the most feasible and readily available method of powering spacecraft, although the challenge for interplanetary travel (rather than just putting craft in orbit) is that it requires both fuel and oxygen — and that can become burdensome to carry, as oxygen accounts for most of the mass in typical propellant combinations.

Ion/plasma thrusters

This approach to propulsion uses electric forces to hurl tiny charged particles at high speeds. Many satellites already use this technology to help stabilize their orbits. These thrusters have been eyed for extremely long-distance space travel, as they can provide small but continuous acceleration for months, even years. But a former NASA astronaut is working on a "Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket" (VASIMR) he believes could one day reach Mars in just 40 days.

Nuclear fission

Splitting atoms to derive energy is an attractive option because a tiny amount of nuclear fuel can deliver an enormous amount of propulsion. The main challenge lies in safely controlling the fission reaction, as you don't want a meltdown in space. Nevertheless, NASA is working on a "Fission Fragment Rocket Engine" that it believes could provide "significant thrust" using "small amounts of readily available, energy dense, long lasting fuel."

Nuclear fusion

This process involves the smashing of atoms together rather than splitting them apart, but it is similarly attractive because it harnesses massive amounts of energy from small amounts of fuel. A deuterium-tritium fuel pellet the size of a grain of sand could deliver as much propulsion as a gallon of liquid rocket fuel from a "Fusion Drive Rocket" under development by NASA and the University of Washington.

Antimatter engine

Anti matter engines are largely the stuff of science fiction, but the NASA Institute for Advanced Concepts is funding a team of researchers who are looking into the possibility of such technology. The idea is to collide matter with antimatter, resulting in a complete annihilation of mass, all of which is converted to energy. As NASA writes on its website: "While tons of chemical fuel are needed to propel a human mission to Mars, just tens of milligrams of antimatter will do."

TO PLANET



Mission to Mars: Day 1

- **Day 2, Thursday:** Hopeful pioneers will likely have to bid farewell to their loved-ones forever — and live the not-so-glamorous life of an astronaut.
- **Day 3, Friday:** OK, so we've landed. Now what? Will there be taxes, a government? (So many questions, but we've got some answers); plus we talk to a real-live guinea pig.
- Check metronews.ca for an interactive timeline

ISTOCK

Success rate climbing with successive missions

Historically, more missions to Mars have failed than succeeded, but the success rate is climbing as technology improves and new missions build on the lessons of previous ones.

NASA, itself, has seen a string of recent successes, from the Spirit and Opportunity rovers in 2003, to the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter in 2007, to the famous Curiosity rover that landed in 2012 and has been sending back high-definition imagery ever since.

NASA's next major mission, named InSight, is set to launch in March 2016 with the goal of landing a robotic drill on the Red Planet that will probe five metres into Martian soil.

Working on the robot is Catherine Johnson, a professor of planetary geophysics at the University of British Columbia, who said the tricky task of safely placing a delicate lander on

the surface of Mars is becoming easier in one sense, but harder in another.

"One of the things that is becoming more and more challenging — in a good way — is that we have more and more information about the surface of Mars now, at higher and higher resolution," she said.

"So our criteria for what is a safe landing site gets stricter and stricter."

But even with a perfectly calculated trajectory and an ideal location to land, Johnson said there's one curveball Mars can still throw at you — the weather.

"A planet with an atmosphere, even if it's only a thin atmosphere like on Mars, that atmosphere can be quite variable," she said. "You never know exactly what's going to be happening the day you land."

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Success and failures

In a "historical log" of 41 missions (not all of them landing missions) undertaken by various countries since 1960, NASA counts:

- 23 as having failed
- 16 as having succeeded
- 2 as "success/failure" for partially achieving their goals



An artist's conception of the stationary NASA Mars lander known as InSight, set to launch in March 2016 with the goal of drilling into the interior of Mars. COURTESY NASA/JPL-CALTECH

Journey to Mars

Hundreds of millions of kilometres on a slingshot-trip around the sun

The trip to Mars is a long one.

Next to Venus, the Red Planet is the second closest to Earth, but the direct distance from here to there is still measured in the tens of millions — sometimes hundreds of millions — of kilometres.

That's because, as Earth and Mars each make their way around the sun, the distance between the two terrestrial planets varies widely.

At its closest, Mars can be about 55 million kilometres away. At its furthest, it's more than 400 million kilometres away. Earth has the inside track around the sun, orbiting every 365 days, while the Mars year is longer — roughly 687 days.

The difference between their orbital periods means that Earth "laps" Mars about



A depiction of how a spacecraft would go from Earth to Mars using a Hohmann transfer orbit.

IMAGE COURTESY GEORGIA TECH SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS AND NAVIGATION COURSE

once every 26 months.

These moments present an ideal launch window for spacecraft, although even then the journey is not a direct A-to-B path.

A typical trip to Mars follows what's called a "Hohmann transfer orbit," in which a spacecraft leaves Earth on one side of the sun, slingshots around the sun, and meets up with Mars on the far side of the sun from where it began. The entire journey spans hundreds of millions of kilometres and takes about seven months.

This is the route that Mars One plans to use.

According to its ambitious schedule, the non-profit foundation aims to launch unmanned spacecraft carrying equipment and robots to the Red Planet in 2018, 2020, and 2022, and then send the first crew of human settlers — on a one-way trip — in 2024. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Who on earth would take a one-way trip to Mars? Find out in Day 2 of Mission to Mars

Feds constantly ask telecoms for private info

Report. The privacy commissioner's office reveals government asks for information 1.2M times every year

The federal government asks Canadian telecom companies for private customer information about 1.2 million times each year, documents released Tuesday by the federal privacy commissioner's office show.

It is unclear how many of those requests are made without a warrant. But figures provided to the office in late 2011 show wireless telecom companies complied with the government's requests for customer data at least 784,756 times.

However, the actual total is likely even greater, since only three of nine telecom companies told the commissioner's office how many times they granted the government's requests for customer data. The



Chantal Bernier THE CANADIAN PRESS

numbers came to light Tuesday as Canada's acting privacy commissioner revealed that telecom companies have refused to disclose how often they release confidential customer information to the federal government without a warrant.

Chantal Bernier, the interim privacy commissioner, said her office has repeatedly

asked telecom companies to disclose statistics and the scope of warrantless disclosure of data, but to no avail.

"I'm not disputing that there are times when there is no time to get a warrant — life is in danger," Bernier said.

"What we would like is for those warrantless disclosures to simply be represented in statistics so that Canadians have an idea of the scope of the phenomenon."

Bernier said the companies have only provided her office with aggregate data, which shows how many times the telecom industry as a whole gives the government customer information without a warrant.

In 2011, the privacy commissioner's office asked 12 telecom companies for information about their customer-disclosure data. The Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, which represents the industry, replied with aggregate data from nine of the 12 companies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mercedes-Benz recalls 284,000+ C-Class cars

A Mercedes C-Class C350 sits on display at the New York International Auto Show in April 2011, in New York City. Mercedes-Benz is recalling more than 284,000 C-Class cars in the U.S. and Canada because the rear lights can fail. The recall affects some C300, C350 and C63 AMG cars from the 2008 through 2011 model years. The problem affects nearly 253,000 cars in the U.S. and another 31,000 in Canada. STORY: THE CANADIAN PRESS; PHOTO: RAMIN TALAEI/GETTY IMAGES

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Canadian content rules

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Rude staff boosts sales

If luxury brands want to sell more, they should hire rude sales staff.

That's the finding of a new University of B.C. study that reveals consumers who get the brush-off at high-end retailers are more willing to fork over the big bucks.

"In some ways, you can see it as like the Pretty Woman effect," said Sauder School of Business marketing professor Darren Dahl, referring to the famous shopping scene in the 1990

Hollywood rom-com starring Julia Roberts. "In that moment, you want that luxury. You want to be part of that group."

For the study, participants imagined or had two interactions with sales staff, one that was rude and one that wasn't. The participants then rated their feelings about the store brands and their desire to buy the product.

Those who aspired to be associated with the high-end brands were more like-

ly to buy after being treated poorly by the sales staff, the study found.

The effect only held true if for customers who aspired to be associated with the luxury brand. It also only worked if the salesperson appeared to be an authentic representative of the brand.

"This isn't everybody," said Dahl. "Our study shows you've got to be the right kind of snob in the right kind of store for the effect to work." **METRO IN VANCOUVER**

TSA's PreCheck comes here

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration is expanding its PreCheck expedited screening program to passengers on international airlines.

Air Canada on Tuesday became the first international carrier to participate, with TSA officials saying other foreign airlines would soon sign on. Airlines need to first update their computer systems to embed extra information in their boarding pass barcodes as well as printing a PreCheck logo.

Launch

2011

The program was launched in October 2011 at four airports.

Passengers in PreCheck lanes get to leave on their shoes, belt, and light jackets, keep liquids and laptops in their bags and use a standard metal detector, not the full-body scanners. Security agents can process twice as many passengers in

PreCheck lanes in the same time as in a normal lane. That allows the agency to dedicate more staff to other passengers — those who theoretically pose the higher risk.

The program was launched in October 2011 at four airports. Today, there are PreCheck lanes at 118 of the roughly 450 U.S. commercial airports. About 5 million of the 14 million passengers who fly each week receive expedited screening. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

BY GEORGE! AT LAST, A UNION FORGED

I'm sure I'm not the only guy who ever wished he could be George Clooney, if only for a day.

A winning combination of intelligence, talent, wit, savoir faire, je ne sais quoi and all those other untranslatable French phrases, George tops it all off with matinee-idol good looks.

Not surprising. He's a matinee idol, duh. Which is no small distinction. Matinee idols are a dying breed. All the other guys on the cover of GQ look alike and are called Hemsworth. George is the epitome of class at a time when class is 40 per cent off at the outlet mall. Who wouldn't want to be George?

Until now, George was also the world's most eligible bachelor. Apparently — I wouldn't know — that's tough. When the women of the world are throwing themselves at your feet, it can be a challenge, or so I hear. George handled the "too many women problem" by doing his best to date them all. And after a brief matrimonial experi-



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

ment in the early '90s, he also tried to live with them all, one at a time, for two-to-three-year stretches.

A selfless quest, if doomed to failure. There's just not enough George to go around. And, truth be told, at 53, he's not getting any younger. You could see it in Gravity. Sandra Bullock was the undisputed star and George was relegated to supporting role status as the kindly sidekick, sort of Buzz Lightyear with crinkles. Not wrinkles. George will never have wrinkles.

The signs are clear. The man who bet Michelle Pfeiffer \$100,000 that he'd never get married again is ready to settle down. All those cocktail waitresses, supermodels and female wrestlers were OK when he was dating the entire

female gender, but now he has to pick one. And so he's focused that formidable charm on the world's smartest and most beautiful woman, who, in case you're wonder-

ing, is 36-year-old Amal Alamuddin. It's hard to believe she is just one woman. She tops the list of the 21 Hottest Barristers in London, was educated at Oxford, specializes in international law, speaks three languages, advises the Secretary General of the UN on human rights in Syria, represented ex-Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and helped Wikileaks founder Julian Assange resist extradition to Sweden.

Imagine it's hard to pull the wool over Ms. Alamuddin's eyes, but when the wolf mounting the charm offensive is George Clooney, what can you do? You sigh, succumb, and go to meet mom. Who, by the way, approves of this prodigious combination of beauty and brains.

Of course, this is real life, not Hollywood. The union of the world's most eligible bachelor and the paragon of global jurisprudence does not, at first blush, look like a recipe for Happily Ever After. Amal better hope George's attempt to mate, er, date the planet is over, and George better hope he doesn't end up before a world tribunal on matrimonial war crimes. Still, today, it's all about congratulations and the triumph of class over crass.

ZOOM

Science experimantis



Newcastle University scientists research vision by outfitting a praying mantis with 3D glasses.
MIKE URWIN/NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

Q&A

"It's a test for their eyesight"



VIVEK NITYANANDA
Research associate at Newcastle University's Institute of Neuroscience

A praying mantis has been outfitted with the world's smallest pair of 3D glasses as part of an experiment to understand the insect's vision. Scientists from Newcastle University used beeswax

to affix the five-millimetre-wide shades on the bug's head.

Here's what researcher Vivek Nityanada had to say about the experiment:

What inspired you to put 3D glasses on a bug?

We wanted to find out how three-dimensional vision has evolved. Like humans, praying mantises have 3D vision, or stereopsis. They are the only insects with such sight.

How did your mantis take to its new eyewear?

It tried to take them off at first, but eventually got pretty comfortable with

them and went about its usual mantis business.

Do the glasses work?

So far, our results have been mixed. It's promising but we haven't nailed it down yet.

Maybe the insect will prefer the glasses, as a super-enhancement to its vision. (Laughs) It doesn't really change its eyesight for the better; we're just fooling it into misjudging depth. But the glasses do make them seem more sophisticated, and they definitely look weirder than they already are.

METRO

METRO AUGMENTED REALITY

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MetroTube

Your money belt can't save you now



ANDREW FFIELD
metronews.ca

Anybody who has travelled abroad has likely been warned about the skilled pickpockets who are hoping to ply your wares in the world's larger tourist havens.

But as this security footage shot in Thailand shows, keeping your belongings safe is more than just a matter of having your cash strapped to your belly and your belongings always in sight. Because a highly co-ordinated phalanx of thieves, complete with distraction games and carefully constructed props, makes for a formidable enemy.



ISTOCK

SCENE 2

Stone shines in every role

From The Help to Spider-Man. Whether the role demands Lucille-Ball-style screwball comedy, fiery rage and indignation or sizzling chemistry, Emma thrives



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

The Spider-Man movies don't skimp on the stuff that puts the "super" into superhero movies. There's web-slinging shenanigans and wild bad guys galore, but The Amazing Spider-Man 2 director Marc Webb calls the relationship between Spidey and girlfriend Gwen Stacy, "the engine of the movie."

The chemistry the real-life couple brings to the screen is undeniable, but it almost didn't get a chance to blossom. Before Stone landed the role of the brainiac love interest, Mia Wasikowska, Imogen Poots, Emma Roberts and even Lindsay Lohan were considered.

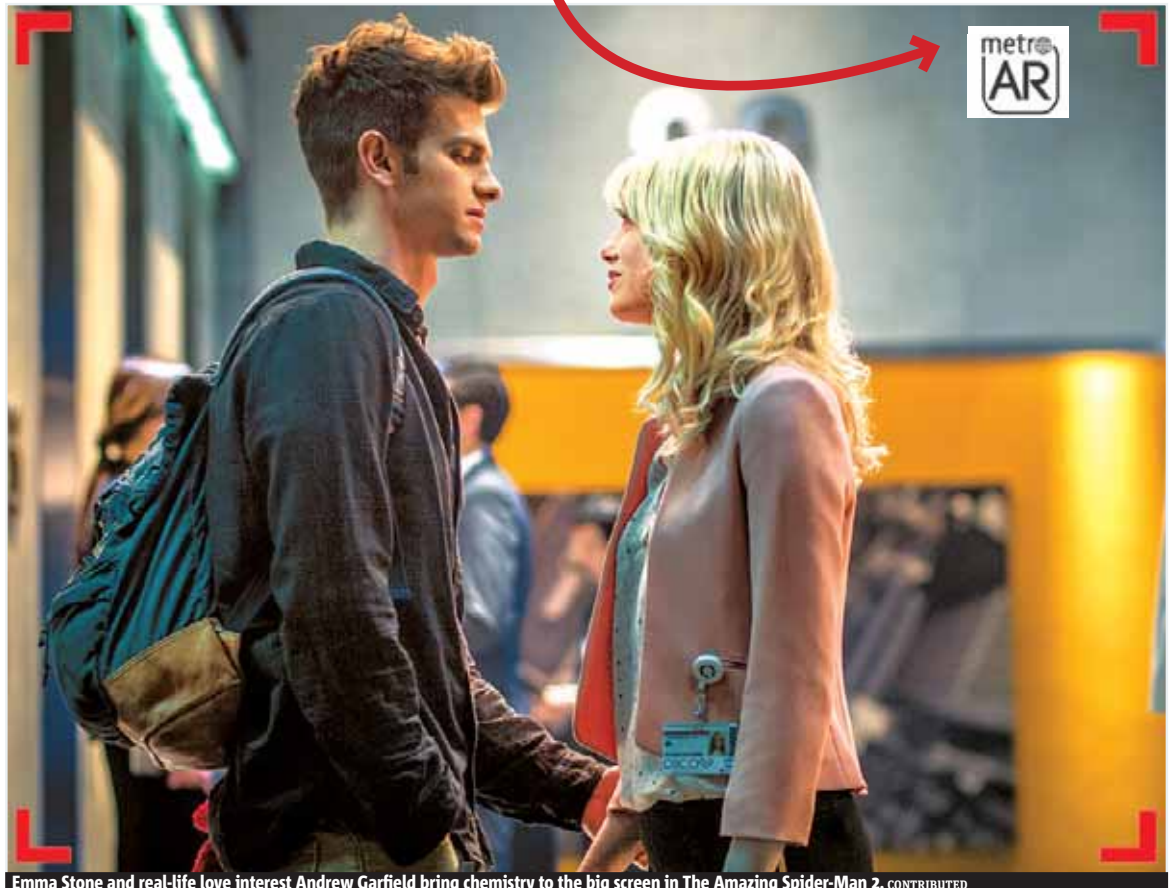
Stone won some of the best reviews of her career playing Gwen in The Amazing Spider-Man — Peter Travers said she, "just jumps to life on screen" — in a role that gave her the biggest hit of her career to date.

Smaller roles in Superbad and Zombieland hinted at her ability to be funny and hold the screen, but in 2010's Easy A she turned a corner into full-on Lucille Ball mode, mixing pratfalls with wit while pulling faces and cracking jokes. Smart and funny, she's the film's centrepiece.

The movie begins with the voice over, "The rumours of my promiscuity have been greatly exaggerated." It's the voice of Olive (Stone), a clean-cut high school senior who tells a little white lie about losing her virginity. As soon as the gossip mill gets a hold of the info, however, her life takes a parallel course to the heroine of the book she is studying in English class — The Scarlet Letter.

Stone is laugh-out-loud funny in Easy A, but her breakout film was a serious drama.

In The Help, she plays Jackson, Miss. native "Skeet-



Emma Stone and real-life love interest Andrew Garfield bring chemistry to the big screen in The Amazing Spider-Man 2. CONTRIBUTED

Web slinger

Spider-Man powers get real

Patrick Priebe is the new Spider-Man ... in terms of gadgetry, at least. The German lab technician has created a working web shooter, which fires pellets and a harpoon-tipped, retractable fishing line instead of a liquid web. Far from requiring any actual superpowers, the web-slinging contraption is a battery-run coil gun that is powered through electromagnetism. Metro nets the every-day tech guru — behind the website laser-gadgets.com — for a chat about all things superhero.

The real Spider-Man catches bad guys, so do you use the web shooter to clean the streets of pests?

(Laughs) The only thing that you'll be grappling with is an apple.

Could you switch on the TV with the pellets or fishing line?

That actually might work. You could also grapple magnetic objects with the fishing line. The only problem is that they might shatter on impact.

No beer cans, then. Do you try out any kick-ass movie-style stunts?

I do a lot of sports like hockey, which is dangerous in its own way. But those stunts are way too extreme for me.

The Batman vs. Superman movie is out in



Patrick Priebe has invented a working web shooter, which fires pellets and a harpoon-tipped, retractable fishing line. CONTRIBUTED

the near future. Who's going to win?

Batman is too grumpy; Superman is the best of all heroes; he would kick everyone's ass. He has X-ray vision.

Can you create the Superman-style laser eyes?

I have made laser eyewear. It's like Cyclops from X-Men, and works pretty well. It's very dangerous. That's why I don't show people how to do it on my website.

Any danger of your gadgets causing actual harm?

Well, the web shooter emits 350 volts and can shock you to death!

EDWARD THOMPSON/METRO WORLD NEWS

er" Phelan who comes home from four years at school to discover the woman who raised her, a maid named Constantine (Cicely Tyson), is no longer employed by her family. Her mother says she quit, but Skeeter has doubts. With the help of a courageous group of housekeepers she tells the real story of the life of the maids, writing a book called The Help.

The Flick Filosopher called her performance, "on fire with indignation and rage," and she moved from The Help to a variety of roles, including playing a femme fatale in Gangster Squad opposite Ryan Gosling and Josh Brolin, and lending her trademark raspy voice to cave girl Eep in the animated hit The Croods.

The 25-year-old actress is living her childhood dream of being an actress but says if performing hadn't worked out, she would have been a journalist, "because (investigating people's lives is) pretty much what an actor does. And imagine getting to interview people like me," she laughs. "It can't get much better than that."



Craig Ferguson

Ferguson gives up the late-night chair

In the latest of a series of late-night comedy shake-ups, Craig Ferguson, host of CBS' *The Late Late Show* since 2005, has announced that he is leaving the show.

This is the most recent domino to fall in the late-night lineup. David Letterman announced his retirement from Ferguson's lead-in, *The Late Show*, earlier in April. CBS quickly named Stephen Colbert of *The Colbert Report* as his successor. Many speculated that, with no chance of being promoted to the earlier show, Ferguson would leave when his contract ends this year, which turned out to be the case.

"CBS and I are not getting divorced, we are 'consciously uncoupling,' but we will still spend holidays together and share custody of the fake horse and robot skeleton, both of whom we love very much," Ferguson said in a statement, referring to two popular props from the show.

Paul Simon and wife arrested after fight

Music legend Paul Simon and his wife, Edie Brickell, were arrested at their New Canaan, Conn., home this recently for disorderly conduct, though the long-married couple insist everything is fine. "I got my feelings hurt and I picked a fight with my husband," Brickell said in a statement, according to CNN. "The police called it disorderly. Thank God it's orderly now." The couple were held overnight Saturday and released the next morning before appearing in court Monday, where they held hands in front of the judge.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



V. STIVIANO/INSTAGRAM

Donald Sterling's girlfriend, V. Stiviano, reads Metro?



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

After the audio tapes of Clippers' owner Donald Sterling spewing racial slurs hit, his alleged girlfriend and leaker of those

tapes, V. Stiviano, made her Instagram account public for the world to see. And if you haven't looked at it, you should. It is truly weird and obnoxious — she overuses hashtags more than a 13-year-old girl. After some sleuthing, we stumbled upon this shot of her reading a *Metro* with the caption, "I'm searching for love in the classified section!"

We at *Metro* want you to know we don't support people like Donald Sterling advertising in our classified section. She must have found him some other way. Maybe racistsugardaddyforme.com?

Twitter



@lenadunham

Jack just got home from a week away and the first thing he did was try to convince me that Tara Reid is in *Schindler's List*



@KChenoweth

the actress playing Lady Stark in *Game of Thrones* is just incredible.



@MarlonWayans

Why did I tell my son I'd get him whatever shoes he wanted if he got good grades? This s--- gotta stop!!!! Tell my son go back to being dumb!!



Kanye West and Kim Kardashian ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kim and Kanye lockdown their love this week

It is being reported that Kim Kardashian and Kanye West will be wed in a very small, private ceremony with a justice of the peace in Los Angeles this week.

Yes, yes, yes — the lavish Parisian celebration is still taking place, but before that occurs, their lawyers are recommending they be

hitched in a civil ceremony to avoid going through an international bureaucratic nightmare. After they say "I do" in court, they will then fly to Paris to plan their wedding.

Get your suits and dresses dry cleaned now — it's reported they will be married on May 24.



George Clooney

George's family stunned he proposed

So how did committed bachelor George Clooney end up feeling compelled to propose to girlfriend Amal Alamuddin after just six months of dating? That's a mystery even his own family can't solve.

"This woman must be exceptionally special to him for him to take the plunge. He hasn't seen her very long. In the past there has at least been some sort of length of time," the actor's aunt, Starla Clooney, tells Radar Online. "I'm just as surprised as the rest of the world."



Photo by Timothy Richard

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3 LIFE

Outer Banks offers different strokes for different folks

More than just a golf destination.

Once you've tired of swinging the sticks, there's still plenty more to take in on a trip to North Carolina's rugged coastline



BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolfraveller.com

Even for golfers determined to spend every possible moment swinging the sticks, the Outer Banks of North Carolina offer other attractions too essential to ignore.

Foremost among them is the Wright Brothers National Memorial, set on the now hallowed ground near the beach town of Kitty Hawk where Wilbur and Orville Wright launched the first powered air flight in 1903.

A stone pillar marks the precise spot of that epochal liftoff, and the site's prize attraction is a full-scale replica of the Wright Flyer, their first primitive aircraft. The Wright brothers are credited with making famous this sun-drenched 320-kilometre long chain of barrier islands, just off the coast of North Carolina and a small stretch of Virginia.

Today, the coastline's white sand beaches, lighthouses, oyster houses, quaint shingle-sided inns and outstanding golf courses are year-round attractions



Nags Head Golf Links is cruelly exposed to the turbulent waters of the Atlantic and offers a challenging 18-hole game. ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED/PLAYOBXGOLF.COM

— although peak season runs from May through September. Capricious winds off the turbulent waters offshore, known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic, frequently bedevil golfers at the popular oceanfront courses of OBX, as tourism marketers have branded the Outer Banks.

Most cruelly exposed to the elements is Nags Head Golf Links, a Scottish-style design where several holes play alongside Roanoke Sound. Golf Digest called architect Bob Moore's layout "the longest 6,126 yards you'll ever play."

Another seaside beauty

is Currituck Club, a dramatic Rees Jones design that sweeps across 600 acres of dunes, wetlands, maritime forests and sound seascapes.

High seas swept ashore another of the coast's unique attractions. Wild horses, descendants of Spanish mustangs that

survived 16th-century shipwrecks, freely roam the dunes of Swan Beach, North Swan Beach and Carova Beach. Jeep tours offered from the nearby town of Corolla provide a close-up look at the tenacious survivors of a herd that once ranged throughout the barrier islands.

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A need-to-know for workers-in-waiting

Aspiration ammo. Four facts every job seeker should know before heading out on the hunt

SHAHEERAH
KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

While job hunting is no easy task, knowing the following four facts will help you determine how to best leverage your job seeking methods and up your chances of landing that dream job.

51 per cent of job seekers who use only one method of job-hunting gave up on their job hunt by the second month

According to jobhuntersbible.com, 51 per cent of those who use only one method of job-hunting gave up on their job hunt by the second month.

On the other hand, from the job seekers who are using at least two or more methods, only 31 per cent abandon their



There's no denying the fact that many hires happen by way of having an 'in' with an organization. Avoid being left out of the loop by getting your name out there as often as you possibly can. ISTOCK

search by the second month.

Researchers discovered that job search success rises with each additional method that you use, but only up to four methods.

If you start using five or more job search methods, it

will start to hurt your chances of landing a job.

Tip: To maximize your chances of successfully getting a job, devote your time to four proven job search outlets such as networking, LinkedIn, your

school's job board and social media.

Most jobs aren't filled by recruiters picking your resumé online

Very few jobs are actually filled by employers or recruiters finding job seekers who posted their resumé on a job board or resumé database.

These databases scan hundreds of resúmes for key words, and it next to impossible to make your resumé stand out in this way.

Tip: Instead of posting your resumé on several job boards, a much more effective tactic is to email your resumé to an actual recruiter who will read it with the human eye.

80 per cent of all positions are filled without employer advertising

Employers don't advertise many jobs because it saves time, energy and money during the whole hiring process. There's little need to advertise a job when an employer

Tell me on a Sunday please

There's an ideal time to send that email:

- If you are going to be emailing your resumé or reaching out to a recruiter, the best time to email them is on a Sunday or early in the morning.
- As not too many messages come in on Sunday, yours will have a higher chance of getting read.
- According to Alex Moore, CEO of Baydin (an email management service), emails sent between 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. are about three times more likely to be opened than emails sent at 4 p.m. Most employers check their emails in the morning, so make sure yours is right at the top of the pile.

can simply hire people that they know, or get reliable references, or hire people who actually reach out to them directly.

Tip: Make sure you are always making valuable connections and keeping in touch, whether it's with your professors, past employers or recruiters working at your companies of interest.

Try following up with and contacting recruiters by introducing yourself, outlining your career aspirations and asking

for an informational interview.

Reach out to your school's alumni network and start a friendly chat with a fellow grad in your field of interest to learn more about how they transitioned into the workplace. After all, they were once in the same position as you and will be able to give you sound advice.

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Of teams and greens

Plant some productivity. Stopping to smell the flowers may be as important to an office worker as it is to an outdoor wanderer

SIDNEYEVE
MATRIX
TalentEgg.ca

It's been a long Canadian winter, but signs of spring are everywhere — with national mood-lifting effects.

To amplify the productivity boost that comes from the seasonal change, put some flowers on your desk.

A recent study from Texas A&M University found that having flowers and greenery around positively affected employees' ability to generate ideas and problem-solve at work.

Head researcher Roger Ulrich and his team found that employees were able to generate 15 per cent more ideas and come up with a greater supply of flexible solutions to problems when they shared their workspace with flowers.

Feel-better flowers

Beyond ideation, flowers at work have a significant and positive effect on your health and well-being, say researchers.

Having fresh blooms on your desk can lower your anxiety, combat depression, reduce negative thinking, and may even have a positive impact on memory. Some studies show that surrounding yourself with indoor plants can help reduce fatigue, coughs, sore throats and other cold-related illnesses by up to 30 per cent — which translates into increased productivity, fewer sick days, and cost savings for employers.

Scientists at the University of Exeter studying the links between flowers and creativity found that adding office plants to workspaces resulted in a 47 per cent boost to staff well-being and a 45 per cent increase in their ability to be creative.

Virtual nature

Breaking up your workday for a walk outside delivers an amazing mood uplift and psychological refresh.

Likewise, studies show that exposure to simulated nature scenes can also have a positive impact on your productivity and mood. Slate has reported psychological research by Delcho Valtchanov in which he

placed participants in a virtual reality space filled with simulated trees, flowers, plants, grass and they experienced higher levels of happiness, friendliness, affection, and playfulness.

If that convinces you to swap your desktop wallpaper for images of flowers and leaves, head over to Nature Wallpaper for some stunning free downloads optimized for mobile, desktop screens, or social profiles.

Blossoming at work

Gadgets aside, science provides proof of the restorative potential of nature and the mood boost that comes from a "living" work environment.

Dialling up the leafy factor of your workspace and increasing the green time in your workday is not only good for your mental health, but also contributes to more focused work performance and increased job satisfaction.

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Earthy and buttery flavours mingle

Porcini-Dusted Fish with Brown Butter Sauce. Use dry mushrooms to create a unique taste



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Dried mushrooms offer up a delicious woody flavour to fish and the brown butter sauce makes the experience over the top in taste. You will find dried mushrooms in the produce section of the grocery store for this Porcini-Dusted Fish with Brown Butter Sauce recipe.

These fillets are a generous 6 oz (175 g) portions, a bit larger than the 5 oz (150 g) portions sold in stores. Buying larger fillets and cutting them at home gives you that advantage to enjoy a little more fish. Or you can also serve up six 4 oz (125 g) portions with this same recipe.

Fish

1. In a clean coffee grinder, grind dried mushrooms to a fine powder. Place in small bowl and add coriander; set aside.

Ingredients

Fish

- 1 pkg (14 g) dried wild mushrooms
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) finely chopped fresh coriander
- 1 1/2 lbs (750 g) fresh fish such as pickerel, cod or trout
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) kosher salt
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter

Spinach Skillet Side

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) canola oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) minced fresh ginger
- 1 bag (8 oz/227 g) baby spinach leaves
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) hot pepper sauce (optional)

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge
to your table in
30 minutes or less

2. Using sharp knife, cut fish into 4 equal portions if fillets are large. Coat each piece with mushroom mixture and place in baking dish. (Make-ahead: Cover and refrigerate for up to 4 hours.)

3. Sprinkle fish with salt. In a large nonstick skillet, melt 2 tbsp (25 ml) of the butter over medium-high heat until just starting to brown. Add fish, skin side down, if any and cook for 3 minutes. Transfer to parchment paper lined baking sheet and roast in 425 F (220 C) oven for about 10 minutes or until fish is opaque and flakes easily when tested.

Spinach Skillet Side

A gingery garlic zing matches nicely with spinach to serve up as a side dish for many meals. The added kick of hot pepper sauce adds an almost mellow balance to the dish.

For an added kick, add



This recipe serves four. EMILY RICHARDS

more hot pepper sauce before serving this side dish.

To make ahead: Cook up the spinach and then let it cool and refrigerate for up

to 1 day. Simply warm it up in a skillet or microwave the next day.

1. In a large non-stick skillet,

heat the canola oil over medium heat and cook garlic and ginger, stirring for about 2 minutes or until softened.

2. Add the baby spinach and hot pepper sauce and cook, stirring for about 5 minutes or until spinach is wilted.

Fresh approach to baked haddock

If you're contemplating a fresh approach to breaded and baked haddock, turn to the mandoline to render a potato fit for pairing with the fish.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp canola or vegetable oil
- 2 medium Yukon gold potatoes
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp mayonnaise
- Salt and ground black pepper
- Dried thyme
- 1 1/4 lbs haddock fillets (about 2 large fillets)

In any other form, potatoes would be too robust for a delicate baked fish. But shaved paper thin, then wrapped around the fish, the potato slices become a deliciously crisp edible wrapper.

Just one caution — there is a reason mandolines come with a hand guard for holding the vegetables while slicing. They are extremely sharp and it's easy to cut yourself.

1. Heat oven to 400 F. Add oil to large cast-iron skillet, then place skillet in oven to heat.

2. Meanwhile, use mandoline

fitted with the thinnest slicing blade to slice the potatoes into very thin rounds. The potato rounds should be as close to paper thin as possible. Set aside.

3. In a small bowl mix mustard and mayonnaise. Set aside.

4. Remove skillet from oven and carefully cover bottom of it with single layer of potato slices, overlapping edges slightly. Season the potatoes with a bit of salt, pepper and thyme.

5. Use paper towels to pat dry the haddock fillets, then brush the mustard-mayo mixture

over both sides of the fish. Place the haddock over the potatoes in the skillet, then arrange a second layer of potato slices over the fish, covering it entirely. Season the potatoes with salt, pepper and thyme, then mist them with cooking spray.

6. Return the skillet to the oven and bake for 14 minutes. Increase the oven to broil and cook for another 2 to 3 minutes, or until the potatoes are nicely browned. Divide the haddock into 4 pieces, being careful to leave the potatoes in place as you serve the fish.

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'The bounces didn't go in'

QMJHL playoffs.

Season over for Mooseheads as they fall in Game 7 to opportunistic Foreurs



GEORDON OMAND
halifax@metronews.ca

No one can say they didn't put it all on the line.

The Halifax Mooseheads held nothing back as they fell 3-2 to the Val-d'Or Foreurs on Tuesday night in front of a soldout Metro Centre crowd, bringing their attempt for back-to-back QMJHL titles to a close.

"It's disappointing to lose in Game 7, one game away from the final — it's hard," said Mooseheads forward Jonathan Drouin, wiping away tears after the emotional battle.

"We had a couple shots that could have gone in, but the bounces didn't go in ... There are games like that and tonight was one of them."

Cheered on by a raucous home crowd of 10,595, the Mooseheads put up a valiant effort, outshooting the visiting Foreurs 41-16.

But Val-d'Or netminder Antoine Bibeau stayed true to form, with 39 saves to mark another impeccable performance, denying shot after shot from the Herd's unrelenting offence.

Heading into the third trailing the Foreurs 3-2 — with a pair of first-period markers from Philippe Gadoury and Nikolaj Ehlers — the Herd just couldn't come up with the equalizer, despite close call after close call.

The final period remained scoreless as Val-d'Or buckled



Players with the Halifax Mooseheads and Val-d'Or Foreurs shake hands following Game 7 on Tuesday night at the Metro Centre. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Quoted

"We knew we could score goals and just playing well defensively made the difference I think."

Val-d'Or Foreurs forward Anthony Mantha

down its defence, effectively shutting down the Mooseheads' offensive machine.

But the Herd refused to give up, right to the end.

Halifax couldn't score on a late power play despite plenty of good chances, and then came up empty when they pulled netminder Zach Fucale for the extra attacker with about 90 seconds left.

"Tonight was just a really good show of how much character we have in the room," said a sombre-faced Mooseheads centre Brent Andrews.

"We didn't let off the gas; we peppered them with shots," he added.

"I thought we might have deserved a better outcome. But that's the way hockey goes sometimes."

For many of the team's older players, it marks their final season with the team.

"The last three years have been something to be proud of," said Andrews, a five-year veteran, as Halifax advanced to three-straight QMJHL semifinals.

"It's hard to feel that right



Maxime Presseault tries to get the puck past Zach Fucale. JEFF HARPER/METRO

now, but looking back ... I'll definitely appreciate playing with the talent that I did and the teams that I played on and the memories I made. I'll definitely cherish those for a long, long time."

The Foreurs will go on to face the Baie-Comeau Drakkar in the QMJHL final. The Drakkar edged the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada 2-1 on Tuesday night to take the series in seven games as well.

4 SPORTS



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Simmonds sublime as Flyers force 7

NHL. Philly forward's hat trick sends series back to Madison Square Garden one last time

Wayne Simmonds and the Philadelphia Flyers are going back to New York for Game 7. There is no time to waste, too.

Simmonds scored three goals, Steve Mason stopped 34 shots and the Flyers beat the Rangers 5-2 on Tuesday night to even their first Eastern Conference playoff series at three games apiece.

Erik Gustafsson also scored as Philadelphia added a third Game 7 to the NHL schedule for Wednesday night. While the other two series last played on Monday night, the Flyers and Rangers have a quick turnaround before their final game at Madison Square Garden.

"You've got to hop on the train and put it behind you. I've got a few episodes of Scandal to catch up on," Mason said, referring to the popular TV show.

Simmonds scored in the first period and twice more in the second for his first career post-season hat trick. Mason survived a busy first period and stopped 31 straight shots until Carl Hagelin scored late in the third. Mats Zuccarello also scored for New York in the



Flyers forward Wayne Simmonds takes a shot on Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist during Game 6 of the Eastern Conference quarter-final series on Tuesday night in Philadelphia. Simmonds had a hat trick in the Flyers' 5-2 win that forces Game 7 on Wednesday night in New York. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

final minute.

By the third, Simmonds had helped stake the Flyers to a 4-0 lead and the outcome was a mere formality. Mason raised his stick in the final minutes toward a rowdy crowd that wouldn't stop chanting his name.

Claude Giroux had an empty-netter for the Flyers, who will try for a second win in New York this series.

"We're not ready to go home yet," Simmonds said.

Simmonds, a 29-goal scorer who had one in the first five games, completed the hat trick

with 4:41 left in the second. With a short break, Rangers goaltender Henrik Lundqvist was yanked for Cam Talbot to open the third period.

Lundqvist stopped 19 of 23 shots. He couldn't stop Simmonds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Sterling. Playoff boycott was on table before commish's ruling

NBA players strongly considered boycotting playoff games if commissioner Adam Silver hadn't ruled harshly against Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling.

Players' union vice-president Roger Mason Jr. says he spoke to representatives from every playoff team about the possibility of boycotting games in solidarity against any ruling that didn't include a mandate for Sterling to sell the Clippers.

The Clippers hosted the Golden State Warriors Tuesday night.

Mason says the players are



NBA commissioner Adam Silver
GETTY IMAGES

very happy with Silver's decision to ban Sterling for life while urging the NBA's board of governors to compel Sterling to sell the Clippers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sterling's acquaintance

Stiviano not responsible for leak, lawyer says

V. Stiviano, the woman whom Donald Sterling was talking to when he made racist remarks, is "very saddened" by his lifetime NBA ban, and she didn't release the recording of their conversation, her lawyer said Tuesday.

Stiviano "never wanted any harm to Donald," Siamak Nehoray of Calabasas told the Los Angeles Times.

Somebody released it "for money," but it wasn't Stiviano, the attorney said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA playoffs

Bulls bite the bullet vs. Wizards

John Wall finished with 24 points, Nene scored 20, and the Washington Wizards beat the Chicago Bulls 75-69 on Tuesday night to clinch their first-round series in five games.

Bradley Beal scored 17 points, and the fifth-seeded Wizards advanced in the post-season for just the third time since the 1970s. They will meet Indiana or Atlanta in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

It's a huge step for a franchise that hadn't been to the post-season since 2008.

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Wicked Strong boasts Beantown backbone

Exercise rider Kelvin Pahal takes Kentucky Derby hopeful Wicked Strong for a morning workout at Churchill Downs Tuesday in Louisville, Ky. Wicked Strong has a built-in fan base for the Kentucky Derby — the entire city of Boston. The colt named in honour of the victims of last year's Boston Marathon bombings figures to be among the favourites for Saturday's race. He's got the credentials, having impressively won the Wood Memorial at 9-1 odds. Wicked Strong is owned by a Boston-based partnership that has pledged to donate five per cent of any money won by the bay colt during the Triple Crown series to the fund set up for the bombing victims. Scan the above image with the Metro News app to view a gallery of Tuesday's events at Churchill Downs.

ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

Blue Jays bullpen bows down to Royals batters

MLB. Perez lights up Toronto relievers for comeback win

Salvador Perez homered and drove in four runs and the Kansas City Royals rallied for a 10-7 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday night.

Perez's two-run double off Sergio Santos in the Royals' six-run eighth put the Royals ahead. Perez's four RBIs matched his career high.

The Royals sent 10 men to the plate in the eighth, which also included Omar Infante driving in two runs, while Nori Aoki and Jarrod Dyson added RBI singles.

Perez, who has three consecutive multi-hit games,



Jarrod Dyson of the Royals bunts for a single against the Blue Jays on Tuesday in Kansas City. ORLIN WAGNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

homered in the seventh with Alex Gordon aboard to trim the Toronto lead to 5-4.

Aaron Crow (1-1), the third of four Royals pitchers, picked up the victory with a scoreless eighth inning and

has not allowed an earned run and only five hits in nine innings this season.

Brett Cecil (0-2) took the loss, retiring only two of the five batters he faced.

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2015 Honda Fit

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel drive compact wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 1.5-litre DOHC 14 (130)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; continuously variable (CVT)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$16,000

Market position

The range of small models continues to hold steady, with redesigned versions now being adorned with more standard and optional content. This tends to attract buyers who prefer all the goodies in a smaller package.

Points

- Redesigned top to bottom, but retains similar look
- New four-cylinder engine ups power while slightly improving fuel economy
- CVT saves fuel, but isn't as smooth as traditional automatic
- All-new, larger HR-V wagon based on Fit platform due to arrive early next year
- Impressive people, cargo space makes Fit tops in small wagon class



The Fit has been lauded for its fun-to-drive qualities.

Safety

Front airbags; side-impact airbags; side-curtain airbags; anti-lock brakes; traction control; stability control.

Honda's latest is a perfect Fit

PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM



Compare



1 Ford Fiesta Hatchback
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Sharp styling, three-cylinder turbo option make Fiesta a popular pick.



2 Nissan Versa Note
Base price: \$14,900
Low-priced wagon holds an impressive amount of stuff. Easy on gas.



3 Chevrolet Sonic Hatchback
Base price: \$16,000
Junior-sized Chevy also comes in sedan version, as do other competitors.

Review. This mighty little hatchback keeps drivers thinking they're ensconced in a larger vehicle

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

"The penalty box of life."

Jeff Conrad, Honda's senior vice president and general manager, uses that phrase in reference to the Fit's small-car competitors. And when comparing the latest edition of Honda's mighty little hatchback to the rest of the field, he may well have a point.

Since the car's 2007 arrival,

critics have lauded its fun-to-drive qualities and impressive carrying capacity. And with few exceptions, the newest and smallest of Hondas that are now arriving from their plant in Mexico should receive similar accolades.

The Fit sticks to a proven formula: Keep the size and weight in check; keep the body lean and spacious; and keep drivers and passengers thinking they're ensconced in a vehicle that's larger than it actually is.

Despite being physically and dimensionally similar (a tiny bit wider and longer in distance between the front and rear wheels, but slightly shorter, overall), the Fit actually looks bigger, which is partly



The previous Fit set the bar pretty high, so it's no real surprise that the interior feels richer than the entry price.

a function of more prominent bodyside creases and fenders that bulge out around the wheel openings. Also, the wraparound headlight pods integrate with the grille and no longer extend alongside the

hood. Getting the Fit underway is now the job of a new 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine that delivers 130 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque, compared to 117 horses and 106 pound-feet of torque for

the previous 1.5.

Directing power to the front wheels is handled by a new six-speed manual transmission, or equally new continuously variable unit (CVT) option. Honda offers an automatic sport mode with paddle shifters, but ultimately it's no substitute for a multi-speed automatic, even if the latter tends to be slightly less fuel-efficient. Fortunately the standard six-cog manual gearbox is there to save the day.

Despite the more powerful engine, the Fit's fuel consumption is an impressive 7.0 l/100 km in the city and 5.7 on the highway, compared to 7.1/5.4 with the previous five-speed automatic transmission. The less fuel-efficient six-speed manual is rated at 8.1/6.4.

5 DRIVE

From the sporty new Toyota Camry and luxe Acura TLX to the fully redesigned Nissan Murano, the New York International Auto Show enjoyed more than its share of important launches this year.

2015 models shine in N.Y.C.



The Alfa Romeo 4C will hit select showroom floors later this year with a 1.75-litre, turbo-charged inline-four engine. ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE MEDIA

TODD D.
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Given its late place in the auto-show lineup and a date immediately after all the sexy concepts debut in Geneva, Switzerland, each year, the New York International Auto Show is often overshadowed when it comes to debut headliners and breaking industry news.

But with many notable intros this year, the Big Apple left a big mark on the auto industry, with many automakers unveiling new and improved models during the 10-day show in Manhattan.

Ford spared no expense or hoopla in the launch of its Mustang tribute edition, but it wasn't the only manufacturer making headlines in New York City. From the green to the mean, NYC enjoyed more than its share of important launches this year.

2015 Toyota Camry

Highlighted by an unmistakable sportier look that mirrors more expensive Lexus, Toyota used the stages of New York to reveal the latest version of the top-selling sedan in North America 12 years running, albeit a couple of years earlier than expected.

Sleeker headlight hous-

The Mustang, 50 years later

Ford Motor Company headlined show hype with a memorable birthday tribute and debut for its new Pony Car, perching the 50 Year Limited Edition Mustang on an observation deck atop the Empire State Building.

- **Why?** That's the same celebration Ford used for its initial launch of the Mustang 50 years ago.

ings, a more athletic platform, pronounced lines and the redesign of nearly every body panel (save for the roof) give it a sense of motion even when standing still.

2015 Acura TLX

Honda's luxury division is consolidating the TSX and TL models to create the TLX. The styling remains sleek, and the performance and power are plenty adequate with four-cylinder and V6 engine choices, but the in-cabin creature comforts highlight this new ride. The TLX features Siri Eyes-Free Technology for iPhone users, heated and ventilated seats, real-time traffic and navigation, and a thumping 10-speaker stereo system.

BMW M4 Convertible

Styling and power specifics didn't surprise at the New York

show, but the \$73,425 U.S. base price did, because it makes the M4 convertible \$8,000 more expensive than the M4 coupe. With the standard power equipment a six-speed manual transmission mated with a 3.0-litre inline-six engine, the German automaker is gambling that hot performance will make up for the extra cash.

2015 Dodge Charger and Challenger

Bold is the best way to describe these remodelled rides that debuted in New York. The change is more obvious for Charger than the Challenger, and for good reason. The Challenger plays more of a retro roll and for 2015, it pays more homage to the 1971 model. The best part is a new interior and coming in a close second is a tail tuck that smoothes the lines to look more like the 2006 concept car that we all fell in love

with. Engines return basically unchanged, although all can be had with an eight-speed automatic transmission. The 6.4-litre Hemi V8 is good for up to 485 horsepower (estimated). Dodge is using the relaunched of these two classics as the headline act for its 100th anniversary celebration this summer.

2015 Nissan Murano

From technology and efficiency to safety and styling, this full redesign was on proud display in New York. Nothing really changes under the hood from the 2014 Murano, but partly by shaving 130 pounds off the platform, Nissan promises 20 per cent better fuel mileage than its predecessor.

Alfa Romeo 4C

Dominating the list of sexy debuts in N.Y.C., Alfa Romeo returned to North America with its gorgeous 4C sports car, ending a 20-year absence from the Italian automaker since introducing its last all-in entry to the U.S. market.

The 4C will hit (very few) showroom floors later this year with a 1.75-litre turbo-charged inline-four engine that will launch the 4C from standstill to 96 km/h in less than 4.5 seconds.

2015 Toyota Camry



2015 Acura TLX



BMW M4 Convertible



2015 Dodge Charger



2015 Dodge Challenger



2015 Nissan Murano

New cars thirstier? It's all in the way they're tested

Fuel efficiency.

New testing procedure will result in more realistic fuel numbers

JIL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

It's not likely that gas prices are ever going to go down by much, which means many Canadians consider good fuel economy to be very important when buying a car. But when you look at the fuel efficiency figures on upcoming 2015 vehicles, they may look thirstier than the 2014 models.

It's not because they actually use more gas. Instead, Natural Resources Canada is introducing a new testing procedure that results in more realistic fuel numbers.

"The government of Canada changed the fuel ratings to better reflect the fuel consumptions that (Canadians are) likely to achieve under today's typical driving conditions and driving styles," says Fabian Allard, deputy director at Natural Resources' Energy Efficiency transportation division. "We've been working with the auto industry on these changes for quite some time."

Fuel efficiency testing isn't done on a test track, but in a lab, since it's the only way to guarantee consistency. Engineers run vehicles on a dynamometer, and determine fuel consumption by measuring the amount of carbon in the exhaust.

Up until now, engineers have used a two-cycle test. The city test starts with a cold engine, takes 31 minutes, and runs at an average 34 km/h, with 23 stops. The highway test starts with a warm engine, takes 12 minutes, and

Facts and tips

- The new 2015 testing methods may produce fuel figures that are 10 to 20 per cent higher than the 2014 numbers.
- Four-wheel drive vehicles are tested in two-wheel drive, and the results are adjusted for extra weight and engine load.
- The 2016 Canadian label will align with the U.S., which has used five-cycle testing since 2008.

runs an average 78 km/h. In each test, the lab temperature is set between 20 C and 30 C.

The new five-cycle test also uses these, but then adds a cold-weather city test with the lab a chilly -7 C; a nine-minute air conditioning test, with the vehicle's a/c running and the lab set to 35 C; and a nine-minute test that includes hard acceleration and a top speed of 129 km/h. All of these factors typically use more fuel.

Automakers do the testing and forward results to Natural Resources. The government sometimes audits results if it thinks the numbers aren't right, or if a model hasn't been tested for a long time or has new technologies. Auditors will use real-life vehicles purchased for the testing.

The EnerGuide labels on 2015 models will explain the new system and numbers. On 2016 labels, you'll see information such as CO2 emissions, combined city and highway ratings, and comparisons with other vehicles in the segment. There will also be clearer information for alternative vehicles such as electric cars and plug-in hybrids.

Quoted

"This will provide Canadians with the most accurate information available. It takes into account bad driving, colder temperatures, and the use of accessories."

Fabian Allard, deputy director at Natural Resources' energy efficiency transportation division



New test methods will make 2015 vehicles look thirstier, but it's just in the numbers. JIL MCINTOSH/METRO

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AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Vehicles have always held a special place in the heart of thieves. They steal whole

Converter metals vs. gold

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• Rhodium	\$1,200

Current per-ounce price (approximate)

vehicles. They steal loose stuff inside vehicles. They steal parts, even when they are attached quite seriously to the mother ship.

For the latter category, it used to be things like hood ornaments, car stereos and nice wheels, but these days it's more likely to be airbags and catalytic converters.

You can significantly reduce your chances of having your steering wheel airbag ripped off by simply locking the doors. You don't have that security measure with your catalytic converter, however, which is part of your vehicle's exhaust system, and just hanging there under your vehicle (between the exhaust manifold and the muffler) and prone to take off like a Labrador retriever with everyone they meet — especially some new person with a sawzall and/or propane cutting torch.

Of course, catalytic converters are theft targets because they are full of precious metals. The metals are used as catalysts, when things get (purposefully) really hot

inside the converter, to convert bad stuff (left over from the rarely 100 percent efficient combustion process) into more benign stuff.

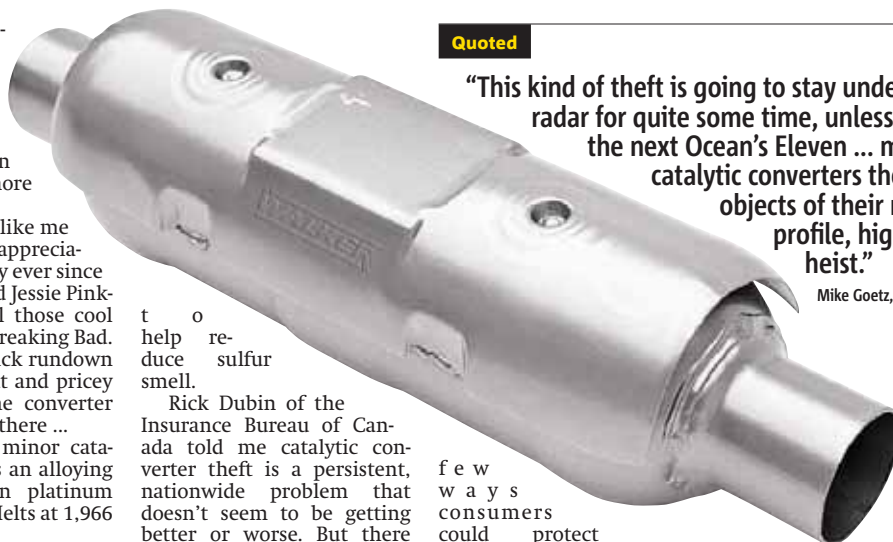
Maybe you're like me and have a new appreciation for chemistry ever since Walter White and Jessie Pinkman got into all those cool shenanigans in *Breaking Bad*. If so, here's a quick rundown on the super-neat and pricey metals inside the converter and why they're there ...

Rhodium: A minor catalyst. Also used as an alloying agent to harden platinum and palladium. Melts at 1,966 degrees Celsius.

Platinum: A major catalyst. Platinum is deactivated in the presence of lead, which is the primary reason why we got rid of leaded gas.

Palladium: A catalyst substitute for platinum. Can absorb 900 times its volume in Hydrogen, and melts at 1,554 degrees Celsius.

Nickel: Sometimes added



Quoted

"This kind of theft is going to stay under the radar for quite some time, unless maybe the next Ocean's Eleven ... makes catalytic converters the desired objects of their next high-profile, high-stakes heist."

Mike Goetz, columnist

A catalytic converter.

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to help reduce sulfur smell.

Rick Dubin of the Insurance Bureau of Canada told me catalytic converter theft is a persistent, nationwide problem that doesn't seem to be getting better or worse. But there has been a spate of converter thefts over the last year in Coquitlam, B.C., prompting the local RCMP attachment there to issue a warning about the problem. Like most converter theft, the Coquitlam victims were trucks and SUVs, which are easier to slide under than passenger cars.

The Mounties suggested a

few ways consumers could protect themselves: Park in your garage; have extra metal welded to your exhaust system (maybe cheaper than your insurance deductible); get your catalytic converter etched so it can be traced and hopefully returned; educate yourself and your neighbours about catalytic converter theft and related suspicious behaviour.

All good ideas, but I think this kind of theft is going to stay under the radar for quite some time, unless maybe the next Ocean's Eleven (or whatever number they're up to now) makes catalytic converters the desired objects of their next high-profile, high-stakes heist.

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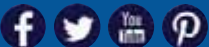
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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Some people won't hesitate to part you from your cash if they can see a way to do it. Don't be suspicious of everyone you meet today but remember there are bad guys in the world.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

There is no doubt you will achieve much over the next few weeks but you will achieve even more if you can persuade others to take on the boring chores, giving you more time for things that really matter.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You may have to get tough with someone who has let you down. Don't go over the top and create unnecessary resentment but do make sure they realize this is the last warning they'll get.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

It's not easy being a role model but if anyone can do it you can. Be on your best behaviour today, set a good example and only do what is inspiring.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You will come in for criticism of today but if you are smart, you will ignore it completely. At best it is misguided, at worst it is sour grapes. The fact is some people envy you for being such a larger-than-life character.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Accusations will fly thick and fast today but none of the mud that is thrown will stick to you. It's not that you are whiter-than-white — you just know how to disguise what you do better than most people!

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You must not take unnecessary risks today, especially with money. Keep your cash in your pocket and don't let anyone, no matter how smooth-talking, persuade you there is easy money to be made.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Cosmic activity in your opposite sign of Taurus means you won't get far on your own over the next few days, so let partners and loved ones and work colleagues know you need and value their support.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Don't worry too much if you get behind in your work because there will be plenty of time to catch up later on. It would help, of course, if you were not so willing to take on other people's tasks.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Anything of a creative nature will go well for you but it will go even better if you make an effort to bring other people into your plans. Friends and loved ones want to help.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Focus on helping others today. Everyone knows you're talented but what they may not know is that you get a huge kick from doing good for others.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

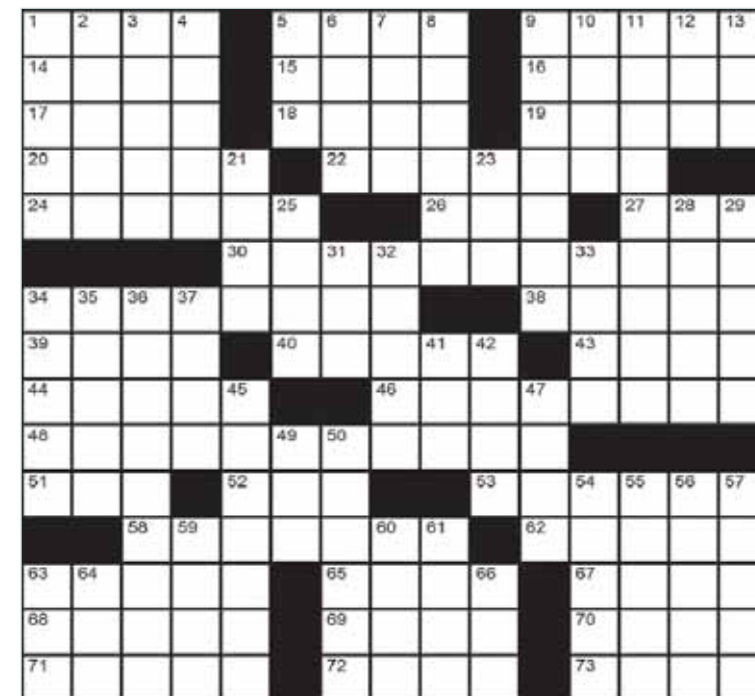
Socially, this will be a great day but some of your friends may be angry that you are spending more time with new acquaintances than you are with them. You can't help if you're popular. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Seasoning sort
5. Breeze
9. Swift
14. Nursemaid
15. Really rain
16. "The Jetsons" son
17. Low-cal
18. Yesteryear
19. BBQ cut
20. Ms. Ekberg
22. Motto of outstanding achievement
24. Mr. Sutherland
26. Midmorning time
27. Couch break
30. "Which Way You Goin' Billy?" by Canadian band The

34. Spinning-in-the-wind toy
38. Iceland band, ___ Ros
39. Dosage, ___ day
40. Steam bath
43. "The King's Speech" (2010) actress Jennifer
44. Fighting: 2 wds.
46. HST = Harmonized ___
48. 1840s: The Great Famine led families to emigrate from Ireland to Canada by way of '___', so-called because of the many



- who died from the putrid conditions on board
51. Vertical's opp.
52. Morning grass stuff
53. Shania Twain's "Don't Be ___ (You Know I Love You)"
58. Shake
62. Steeple

63. Carpentry joint part
65. Cab
67. Spare
68. Disguised, informally
69. Happy as a ___
70. Barenaked Ladies title lady
71. Wants
72. ___ seed oil

73. Heavy weight units [var. sp.]
- Down**
1. Lunchtime greenery
 2. ___ acid
 3. Fancy tongue
 4. 8th Greek letter
 5. Operative
 6. Fun-style negative
 7. Etheric emanation

8. "___ Woman" (1990)
9. Eyes parts
10. Dawn love song
11. 1980 horror flick starring actor Leslie Nielsen: 2 wds.
12. 'Restrict' suffix
13. Tie-___
21. Rush's "Xanadu" bit: "To seek the sacred river ___..."

23. Athletics authority [abbr.]
25. Performs
28. 1956 rocker: "Be-Bop-___"
29. Heat-resistant glassware
31. Fairy princess annoyance
32. Lavish
33. Architect, Ludwig ___ van der Rohe
34. Illegally hunt
35. ___ deep (Over one's head)
36. Region of The New World for Samuel de Champlain: 2 wds.
37. WWII RAF support gr.
41. B' ___ B'rith
42. Snow-capped sights
45. Papineau, for Justin Trudeau ...and Outremont, for Thomas Mulcair
47. Approx. figures
49. Clear
50. Swiss timepiece brand
54. Disturb
55. Middle C site
56. Dick ___, Jr. (Broadcasting legend)
57. Feats
59. Fine
60. Story
61. Test
63. Can
64. Opposite WSW
66. Gremlin

Yesterday's Crossword

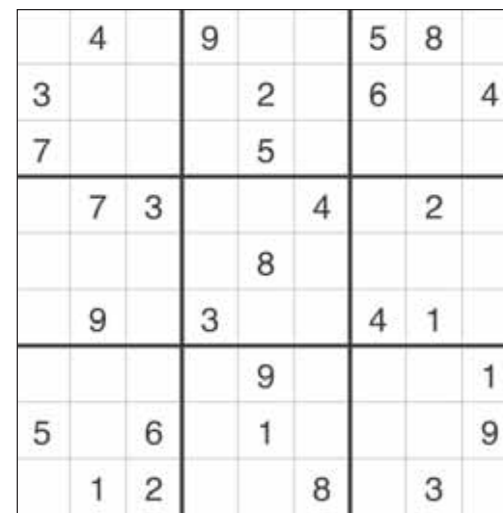


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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